

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing jaw exercise, teeth cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, said pet toy comprising:

an elongated hollow body, having an outer peripheral surface, extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and second ends and a side wall of substantially constant cross-section throughout; and

a plurality of longitudinally spaced pairs of annular ribs extending around said outer peripheral surface to facilitate the animal gripping said pet toy with its teeth, [each said pairs] at least one pair of ribs defining a first narrow groove therebetween and at least one adjacent [[pairs]] pair of ribs defining a second wider groove therebetween wherein the inner rib of 10 [[each]] the at least one pair of ribs [with respect to said second wider groove] are disposed for engagement with the teeth, and the outer rib of [[each]] the at least one pair of ribs [with respect to said second wide groove] are disposed for engagement with the gums when the animal bites down [on said second wider groove] on said outer peripheral surface between said spaced pairs of annular ribs.

2. (Original) A pet toy, as claimed in claim 1, said elongated hollow body further including:

a first bulbous section having a first opening defining a first inner diameter and forming said first end of said elongated hollow body and forming said first end of said elongated hollow 5 body extending along said longitudinal axis.

3. (Original) A pet toy, as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

said first and second inner diameters are different.

4. (Original) A pet toy, as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

said first and second inner diameters are the same.

5. (Original) A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing jaw exercise, teeth cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, said pet toy comprising:

an elongated hollow body extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and second ends and a side wall of substantially constant cross-section throughout;

5 a first bulbous section having a first opening defining a first inner diameter and forming said first end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis;

a second bulbous section having a second opening defining a second inner diameter and forming said second end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis and spaced from said first bulbous section;

10 a center section extending along said longitudinal axis between and connected to said first bulbous section and said second bulbous section, said center section having a third inner diameter which forms an inner surface defining a center opening said third inner diameter being less than at least one of said first and second inner diameters; and

15 a rope extending through said elongated hollow body along said longitudinal axis having a fourth diameter smaller than either said first and second inner diameters and having an end with a knot formed therein which knot has a fifth diameter which is smaller than said at least one of

said first and second inner diameters but is larger than said third inner diameter so that said knot can pass through said at least one of said first and second inner diameters but not pass through said third inner diameter and engages said inner surface of said center section as an anchor wherein said rope extends through the other of said at least one of said first and second openings to serve as a pull for said pet toy.

6. (Original) A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing jaw exercise, teeth cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, set pet toy comprising:

an elongated hollow body extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and second ends and a side wall of substantially constant cross-section throughout;

a first bulbous section having a first opening defining a first inner diameter and forming said first end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis;

a second bulbous section having a second opening defining a second inner diameter and forming said second end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis and spaced from said first bulbous section;

a center section extending along said longitudinal axis between and connected to said first bulbous section and said second bulbous section, said center section having a third inner diameter which forms an inner surface defining a center opening said third inner diameter being less than at least one of said first and second inner diameters; and

an edible animal treat extending through and resiliently gripped in said center opening.

7. (Original) A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing jaw exercise, teeth cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, said pet toy comprising:

an elongated hollow body extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and second ends and a side wall of substantially constant cross-section throughout;

5 a first bulbous section having a first opening defining a first inner diameter and forming said first end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis;

a second bulbous section having a second opening defining a second inner diameter and forming said second end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis and spaced from said first bulbous section;

10 a center section extending along said longitudinal axis between and connected to said first bulbous section and said second bulbous section, said center section having a third inner diameter which forms an inner surface defining a center opening said third inner diameter being less than at least one of said first and second inner diameters; and

a first edible animal treat extending through and resiliently gripped in said first opening;

15 and

a second edible animal treat extending through and resiliently gripped in said second opening.

8. (Original) A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing jaw exercise, teeth cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, said pet toy comprising:

an elongated hollow body extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and second ends and a side wall of substantially constant cross-section throughout;

5           a first bulbous section having a first opening defining a first inner diameter and forming  
said first end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis;  
  
          a second bulbous section having a second opening defining a second inner diameter and  
forming said second end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis  
and spaced from said first bulbous section;

10           a center section extending along said longitudinal axis between and connected to said first  
bulbous section and said second bulbous section, said center section having a third inner  
diameter which forms an inner surface defining a center opening said third inner diameter being  
less than at least one of said first and second inner diameters; and

          an edible animal treat having a length greater than that of said elongated hollow body,  
15   said edible food treat extending through and resiliently gripped in said first and second openings  
and said center opening.

9.       (Original) A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing exercise, teeth  
cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, said pet toy comprising:

          an elongated hollow body extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and second  
ends and a central hollow core of substantially constant diameter;

5           a first bulbous section extending along said longitudinal axis having a first opening  
defining a first diameter and a first wall thickness forming said first end of said elongated hollow  
body;

a second bulbous section extending along said longitudinal axis and spaced from said first bulbous section, said second bulbous section having a second opening defining a second

10 diameter and a second wall thickness forming said second end of said elongated hollow body;

a center section extending along said longitudinal axis between and connected to said first bulbous section and said second bulbous section, said center section having a thin deformable side wall and an inner surface forming a center opening of a third diameter which is less than at least one of said first and second diameters, said thin deformable side wall having a third

15 thickness which is less than at least one of said first and second thicknesses and

a plurality of longitudinally spaced pairs of annular ribs extending around said outer peripheral surface to facilitate the animal gripping said pet toy with its teeth, each said pairs of ribs defining a first narrow groove therebetween and adjacent pairs of ribs defining a second wider groove therebetween wherein the inner rib of each pair of ribs with respect to said second wider groove are disposed for engagement with the teeth and the outer rib of each pair of ribs with respect to said second wide groove are disposed for engagement with the gums when the animal bites down on said second wider groove.

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10. (Original) A pet toy, as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

said first and second wall thicknesses are equal.

11-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A pet toy comprising:  
a first bulbous section having an outer peripheral surface;  
a second bulbous section having a outer peripheral surface and spaced from said first  
bulbous section;  
a center section interconnecting said first and second bulbous sections;  
said first and second bulbous sections each having sidewalls of substantially uniform  
thickness;  
a plurality of longitudinally spaced pairs of ribs extending around said outer peripheral  
surfaces of said first and second bulbous sections to facilitate an animal gripping said pet toy  
with its teeth, said ribs defining narrow and wider grooves disposed therebetween; and  
said pet toy being deformable in response to the biting action of an animal.

15. (New) A pet toy, as claimed in claim 14, wherein:  
said first and second bulbous sections and said center section are aligned along a  
longitudinal axis.

16. (New) A pet toy, as claimed in claim 14, wherein:  
said first bulbous section further includes a first opening formed at one end thereof; and  
said second bulbous section having a second opening formed at a second end thereof.

17. (New) A pet toy, as claimed in claim 16, further including:  
an edible animal treat placed in either said first and second openings.

18. (New) A pet toy, as claimed in claim 14, wherein:

said center section includes a center opening; and

an edible animal treat inserted in said center opening.

19. (New) A pet toy, as claimed in claim 14, further including:

a rope extending through said pet toy and having an end with a knot formed therein, said rope being secured within said pet toy.